

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 12173 130632Z  
ACTION OC-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1942  
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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ACOM ET  
SUBJ: POUCH INSPECTION

REF: ADDIS ABABA 12077

1. EMB RECEIVED DEC 7 CURCULAR NOTE FROM CAMEROONIAN DEAN OF DIP CORPS DTD DEC 3 WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE I HAVE THE HONOUR AND PLEASURE TO INFORM YOU THAT I WAS THIS DAY 2ND DECEMBER 1976 , AT 4 P.M., SUMMONED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY BY H.E. THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL OF SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA.

THE LATTER DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF THE OPENING OF INCOMING AND OUT-GOING DIPLOMATIC POUCHES IN ADDIS ABABA.

HE ORALLY INFORMED ME OF THE FOLLOWING, WHICH HE REQUESTED THAT I SHOULD COMMUNICATE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS:

1. THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE MEASURES IT TOOK TO OPEN AND INSPECT DIPLOMATIC POUCHES ARE NO LONGER NECESSARY AND HAVE AS SUCH, BECOME VOID.

2. ACCORDINGLY, THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT DECIDED WITH EFFECT FROM TODAY 2ND DECEMBER TO LIFT WHATEVER MEASURES WERE AIMED OPIENING AND SEARCHING DIPLOMATIC BAGS. AS A RESULT, NORMAL DIPLOMATIC MAILS COULD NOW

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RESUME.

3. ALSO THE MINISTER, ON BEHALF OF THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S SINCERE REGRETS FOR THE INCONVENIENCE CAUSED TO THE DIPLOMATIC MISIONS AND DIPLOMATS AS WELL, AND DID ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE OBJECTIONS RAISED BY THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AGAINST THE MEASURES WERE JUSTIFIED.

4. HE EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S THANKS FOR THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WHICH REIGNED AMONG THE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS.

ON MY PART, I THANKED HIS EXCELLENCY THE FOREIGN MINISTER FOR THE EFFORTS HE PERSONALLY MADE WHICH HAVE NOW BORE FRUITS, AND THROUGH HIM, THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT , FOR ITS UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

I ALSO AVAILED MYSELF OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW THE MINISTER'S ATTENTION THE CURRENT SEARCH OF HOMES OR OFFICES OF DIPLOMATS,AND INDIAN DIPLOMAT AND AN OAU OFFICIAL, HAVE AMONG OTHERS, BEEN VICTIMS OF THIS SEARCH.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE FOREIGN MINISTER, POINTED OUT THAT EVERYTHING IS BEING DONE TO PUT AN END TO SUCH INCIDENTS, WHICH HAVE IN THE MAIN, BEEN ERRORS COMMITTED IN THE EXECUTION OF ORDERS. AND ,WILL ALSO REQUEST THE PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT TO TENDER AN APOLOGY.

UNQUOTE

2. COMMENT: WITH ANY LUCK, THIS SHOULD END WHOLE UNFORTUNATE MATTER. FRENCH, BRITISH AND KENYANS FORMERLY ON " BLACKLIST" HAVE NOW RECEIVED POUCHES. FONMIN KIFLE EVEN APPARENTLY MADE LEFT -HANDED GESTURE TOWARD CORPS POSITION WITHOUT RETREATING TOO MUCH FROM EPMG'S ORIGINAL POSITION.

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